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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

INTELLIGENCE REPORT



COUNTRY USSR (Soviet Latvia)

ORIGIN [redacted]

SUBJECT Miscellaneous Military Information - Army,
Navy, Air, Training, Mobilization and Demobilization

DST. 5 December 1947

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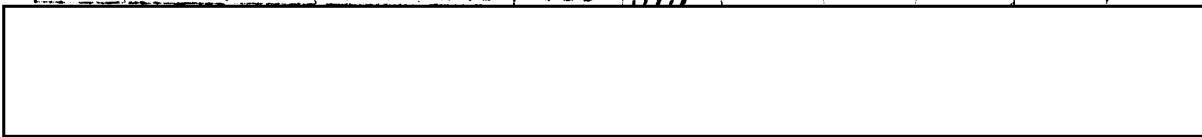
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1. Army. There were no large Soviet Army units in southern Estonia at the end of August 1947; however, it was rumored that large movements of Russian occupation forces from Germany were expected momentarily. [redacted] Command. Announcements and requests made over the Baltic radio in the Estonian language indicated that extensive fall campaigns were taking place at that time in the Baltic area. These included demands for early contributions of shares of hay from the Estonian farmers for the Soviet Army.)

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2. Air

- a. Large airfields are located at Daugavpils (Dvinsk: 55°53'N, 26°32'E), Rundpils (56°30'N; 25°51'E), and Rezhitsa (sic. unlocated on map).
- b. The airfields near Tartu (Dorpat) have been considerably enlarged. Large numbers of aircraft are on the fields and training flights are continually taking place. The airmen are greatly dissatisfied with the food they receive and often travel as far as thirty kms. to the farms to obtain more.

3. Navy

- a. The Latvian naval port at Jelgava is still in operation. In addition there are some smaller destroyers, and larger war ships (such as the cruiser "Karin Gorki"). The coast is patrolled by planes and patrol boats.
- b. There are lighter naval vessels in Tallinn, including the destroyers "Smolnyi", "Orenburg", "Saratov", and "Sviryanov". Admiral "Friduts", Commander in Chief of the Baltic Sea Fleet, has moved his headquarters from Tallinn to Riga (Rillala). The entire peninsula is now a restricted area.

4. Training

- a. The only technical military school in Estonia is the High Naval School, located at Tallinn, which offers four-year courses of instruction to helmsmen, ship machinists, wireless operators, and shipbuilders. The courses include six months of practical service on Russian training ships. There are 250 students, chiefly Russians, at the school. Uniforms are

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women and students live at the school. Only Russians are allowed to attend after the first two years, and graduates are given the rank of sub-lieutenants in the Russian navy. Captain 2nd Rank Dedov is chief of the school and Captain 3rd Rank Milishenko is chief of war technical training. Students of the school visited Murakron in June or July of this year. They were serving on merchant vessels, which now go to Murakron for demagnetization. (The Russians contend that this is carried out only at Kronstadt; however, prior to this time vessels were sometimes demagnetized at Helsinki.)

- b. There is a school located at Riga which is similar to the High Naval School at Tallinn. There is also a flying school at Riga, located on the banks of the Daugava river; it is open to Russians only. In Rechtra (Latvian) (sic), near the Polish frontier, there is another flying school which is open to both Latvians and Russians.
- c. There are schools in Riga and Riga for the training of NKVD officers. Students are carefully selected and enjoy privileged positions. They have excellent food and equipment and receive a monthly salary of 400 rubles.
5. Mobilisation and Demobilisation: Soviet army reserves born before 1923 or 1924 have been demobilized in both Latvia and Estonia. Classes of 1925, 1926, 1927, and the first part of 1928 are still serving, and the classes of the second half of 1928 and of 1929 were to be called for service in September. The men of the 1930 class were also registered for this purpose. Latvian recruits are allotted chiefly to the artillery and armored services, while none go to the navy. New recruits are taken to Russia, where service is started. The men of the 1927 class were sent to Sverdlovsk, in the Ural mountains. After the Soviet-Latvian government objected, a deception was staged. A motor course of instruction was started in the Latvian units, and the men were told that they were to go to Russia to bring American cars to Latvia. Not one has returned from the trip. The new recruits were not allowed to remain in their homes for more than two months.

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